

99-4

# THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA CALIFORNIA

PLANNING DIVISION  
CITY HALL  
1300 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050  
(408) 201-0200  
FAX (408) 247-8857

January 20, 1999

Lester A. Snow  
Calfed Bay-Delta Program  
VIA FACSIMILE: (916) 654-9730

Dear Mr. Snow,

Thank you for the BDAC Assessment Report.

When we are investigating alternatives/more efficient use of groundwater, have we considered drilling water wells to obtain water from under the ocean floor? I called the Scripps Institute on this and they seemed to be only familiar with problems re: Monterey Bay, but what about water from farther out? Have investigations confirmed that the water table near shore does not extend out farther? Palm Springs is sitting on a huge aquifer, the nearby Salton Sea is/was salt water (previously connected to the Gulf of California) and I wonder if the Palm Springs aquifer is at least partially due to filtering through the layers converting saltwater to potable water.

As we here in the City of Santa Clara still rely significantly on the underground water table and it is, of course, not infinite in its capacity, there is certainly economic benefit to considering all available alternatives, yes? I have not included as a discussion point the possibility of wells extending under San Francisco Bay as I fear that the contamination of the Bay through history may have affected the quality of any potable water supply there. If this is not the case, I would appreciate knowing this good news.

Thank you for considering this inquiry and responding as time permits.

Respectfully,



Douglas V. Handerson, AICP  
Advance Planning Coordinator/  
Associate Planner

dir:\My Documents\Calfed Bay Delta Inquiry Doc